



# CITY OF AMESBURY

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## Special City Council Meeting Minutes City Hall Auditorium Monday December 30, 2013 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Ferguson at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Gilday

Sharon Dunning led the roll call. All Councilors were present except Councilor Lavoie who arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Councilor Ferguson announced that the meeting would not be televised; and also that the Planning Board part of the meeting was cancelled because there was no quorum. She said it will be rescheduled.

Alan Corey was appointed to Conservation Commission term to expire 6/30/2017

Kinsey Boehl was appointed to Conservation Commission term to expire 6/30/2017

Suzanne Egan was appointed to Conservation Commission term to expire 6/30/2017

Licenses renewals for Zach and Annie's, and Carissa Haley, were accepted. Councilor Kelcourse motioned to accept. Councilor Neale seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Councilor Neale motioned to take **2013-116** out of order. Councilor Gilday seconded. It was voted unanimous.

**2013-116** An Ordinance requesting the Municipal Council vote to amend the provisions of the Amesbury Zoning Bylaws to allow for the limited use of maintaining chickens as pets and for egg production in residential areas.

**Summary:** The purpose of this ordinance is to balance the desire of residents to own backyard chickens while protecting abutting neighbors from noise, odor, damage or threats to health and public safety.

Councilor Gilday read the recommendation from the Planning Board, which was not to recommends adoption of **2013-116**.

Councilor Scorzoni said he thinks it should be tabled indefinitely and has a suggested redraft of the order.

Councilor Neale motioned to table 2013-116 indefinitely. Councilor Gilday seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Councilor Ferguson thanked her fellow Councilors for their service and wished them well. The City Council helped the Salvation Army do some fundraising, and raised \$2350.86 through the Santa Parade and by holding stockings.

**2013-131** An Ordinance for a Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Cultivation, Treatment Centers and Dispensaries - Councilor McClure sponsor

**Summary:** This ordinance would adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the City for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Dispensaries so as to allow the City sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of such structures and uses in the City and to enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

Chris Edwards, Executive Director, of the Alternate Therapies Group (ATG) presented. Lisa Mead, of Blatman, Bobrowski & Mead, LLC in Newburyport; representing Green Heart Health presented.

Councilor Ferguson called for Council member questions.

Councilor Gilday, Councilor McMilleon, Councilor Scorzoni, Councilor Kelcourse, Councilor McClure, and Councilor Neale all asked various questions.

Marty Craft, Head of Safety for Green Hart Holistic spoke about the strict regulations and security at the facility. He is a Sergeant for the Boston Police Department.

Dan Houston, Executive VP at Green Heart Holistic talked about the volume of marijuana dispensed and who would be dispensing it.

Audits were also discussed.

Councilor Ferguson asked for a discussion on the indoor growing of marijuana

Rob Johnson, Chief Science Officer, spoke about the type of cannabis that would be grown.

Councilor Kimball, Councilor Scorzoni, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor McMilleon, Councilor Lavoie, and Councilor Neale all discussed.

Dennis Nadeau spoke about City regulations.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public portion of the meeting, for questions to the presenters.

Jonathan Sherwood asked about the type of products that would be cultivated.

Paulette Morris asked why they aren't willing to wait.

Ms. Mead responded.

Someone asked about disease, and the positive and negative effects of medical marijuana.

Meryl Goldsmith asked about licensing and distribution of them.

Brian Dragon asked about hemp products.

Paul Sickorez asked about location.

Andy Thomas asked about street values, and is concerned about security.

James Thieverge asked a question about the economic benefit.

Anthony Skett asked about the filtering system, waste, asked about dispensaries.

Claude Gonthier asked about the lease, how will the building be configured, and about the process of growing.

Ken Gray asked for data on what this might have do to personal property values, and future growth of companies.

Chaffey Mounil asked about worst case scenarios, break ins, and revocation of licensing.

Councilor McClure is asking for an evaluation, and a six month delay.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public portion of the meeting.

David Haraske supports the moratorium.

Chaffey Mounil does not support the moratorium.

Meryl Goldsmith does not support the moratorium.

J. Michael Greaney supports the moratorium.

Jonathan Sherwood does not support the moratorium.

Scott Winters does not support the moratorium.

Brian Dragon does not support the moratorium.  
Nancy Thomas supports the moratorium.  
Roger Deschene does not support the moratorium.  
James Thieverage supports the moratorium.  
Donald Meskie does not support the moratorium.  
Frank Czar does not support the moratorium.  
Councilor Ferguson read testimony.  
Emilio Estrella does not support the moratorium.  
J. Michael Greaney supports the moratorium.  
Paul Sickorez supports the moratorium.  
Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.  
Councilor Lavoie said that it would be unlawful for the Council to take a vote on this at this time.  
Councilor Neale is not in support of the bill.  
Councilor McMilleon would have voted for the moratorium.  
Councilor Kelcourse thanked everyone.  
Councilor Kimball does not support the moratorium.  
Councilor Scorzoni does not support the moratorium.  
Councilor McClure asked that the Clerk's Office post this as a late file for the January 2, 2014 meeting.  
Councilor Lavoie seconded, Councilor Neale's motion to table. Councilor McMilleon seconded. It was voted unanimous.  
Councilor McMilleon motioned to adjourn, Councilor Neale seconded. It was voted unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawne Warren  
Office of the City Clerk  
Administrative Assistant